

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153777 TOSEC 070088
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----105085 161857Z /72

O 161841Z JUN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153777 TOSEC 070088

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 1210 ACTION STATE USUN NEW YORK INFO
BONN DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE MAPUTO LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA OTTAWA
PARIS PRETORIA JUNE 16.

QUOTE Q O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1210

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

LONDON PASS ASST SEC MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, SF, WA, ZA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON CPARIVI SITUATION

REF: CAPE TOWN 1202,

1. NEIL VAN HEERDEN CALLED POLCON THIS AFTERNOON, JUNE 16,
TO SAY THAT HE HAD PASSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA
THE POINTS WE HAD MADE THIS MORNING ON THE CAPRIVI SITUATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 153777 TOSEC 070088

(REFTEL). VAN HEERDEN SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD
CONFERRED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA AND THEY HAD ASKED HIM
(VAN HEERDEN) TO PASS ON THEIR RESPONSE TO US. VAN HEERDEN
SAID THAT RESPONSE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM VERBALLY AND HE WAS
PASSING IT ON AS BEST AS HE COULD REMEMBER. FOLLOWING IS VAN
HEERDEN'S ACCOUNT:

QUOTE: WE HAVE TAKEN COGNIZANCE OF YOUR REMARKS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP AND WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT SOUTH AFRICA INTENDS TO DO NOTHING IRRESPONSIBLE AND IS FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENTERING OTHER PEOPLES' TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS, IF SWAPO MAKES ANY MOVE TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON KATIMA-MULILO, OUR ARMED FORCES ARE PREPARED AND EQUIPPED TO HURT THEM VERY VERY BADLY. ZAMBIA, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT CANNOT HARBOR INVADERS WITHOUT DIRE CONSEQUENCES. THE RECENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN SHABA IS PERTINENT. WHEREAS WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NOT REACT PRECIPITUOUSLY, WE WILL DEFEND OUR BORDERS. SWAPO SHOULD BE WARNED THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY PROVOCATION, IT WOULD RISK SERIOUS LOSSES. IF ZAMBIA HARBORS INVADERS, IT CANNOT EXPECT TO BE IMMUNE. IF WHAT AMOUNTS TO A SIZEABLE INVASION TAKES PLACE, WE WILL NOT ALLOW A REPETITION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN SHABA. END QUOTE.

2. POLCON RESPONDED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF RESPONDING ADEQUATELY TO ANY SWAPO MILITARY ACTION WITHIN THE BORDERS OF NAMIBIA. ANY SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE BEYOND THESE BORDERS WOULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. HE REPEATED THAT THE SAG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY EITHER A RETALIATORY OR A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE INTO ZAMBIA.

3. VAN HEERDEN REPLIED THAT THE SAG HAD FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSEQUENCES AND GAVE DUE WEIGHT TO KEEPING THE WESTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 153777 TOSEC 070088

PROPOSAL VIABLE. BUT, HE REPEATED, THE SAG WOULD NOT PERMIT ZAMBIA TO REMAIN IMMUNE SHOULD AN INVASION BE LAUNCHED FROM ITS TERRITORY. EDMONDSON UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE153777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:JTHYDEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0575
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780649/aaaabqgv.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5029c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 1202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2313958
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SAG RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON CPARIVI SITUATION
TAGS: PORG, PEPR, SF, WA, ZA, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5029c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014